

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL

Date 17 September 2015

REPORT ON: SCHOOL/SETTING IMPROVEMENT SERVICE REPORT

Report of the Director for PEOPLE

Strategic Aim:	<i>Creating a Brighter Future for All</i>	
Exempt Information	NO	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Councillor David Wilby, Portfolio Holder for Lifelong Learning Education	
Contact Officer(s):	Tim O'Neill, Director of Services for People	
	Mark Fowler, Head of Education	
Ward Councillors		

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Panel:

1. Notes the Report (Appendix 1)
2. Approves "Proposed Changes" 1-8, pp 4-5.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. To inform the Council of the review of school improvement arrangements and seek approval of the key changes required to improve the impact of the Service.

2. BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1. As part of a review of Education Services, the school improvement arm of the service was also reviewed.
- 2.2. The review of the service resulted in a small number of key proposals for change. These affect: clarity of LA role and strategy in school improvement; how schools are categorised; culture of schools and LA; improving system leadership; collaborative vision; service improvement; accountability and Council Member involvement.

3. CONSULTATION

- 3.1. Consultation has involved all members of the Education Services, all head teachers and a cross-section of Chairs of Governors.
- 3.2. Further consultation will take place with head teachers, governors and children via the appropriate fora.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1. None.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. At present, it is expected that all actions will be completed within current funding levels.
- 5.2. The arrangements to charge schools for a limited range of additional services will be self-funding.

6. LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1. A proposal affecting the response of Council Members to OFSTED inspection reports of schools affects the relationship with schools but does not affect the statutory governance arrangements.
- 6.2. The proposal affecting Teaching Alliances (TA) may have impact upon TA management and governance arrangements
- 6.3. Legal dimensions of the proposal re: TA will need consideration.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1. An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been completed. Positive impacts were identified. These may improve, in particular, the outcomes for children who receive free school meals. It is expected that their learning outcomes will improve as a result of the implementation of the plan. A copy of the EqIA can be obtained from Mark Fowler.

8. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. None identified.

9. HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. None affected.

10. ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Increased involvement of Council Members with school leaders.
Increased collaboration with external providers, e.g., Teaching Alliance.

10.1. Environmental implications

None foreseen.

10.2. Human Resource implications

Increasing flexible use of specialist education officers.

10.3. Procurement Implications

Formalising relationships with partner providers, e.g., Rutland Teaching Alliance.

11. CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1. The Education Strategic Plan (see report) sets a clear direction and priorities for the Education Services over the next 3 years.

11.2. The content and proposals within this report match the priorities of the plan and will enable it to be achieved rapidly.

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Rutland Education Strategic Plan 2015-18

13. APPENDICES

The report contains 4 appendices.

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.